

in a leadership role with the Building Trades Council since 1958 and has set an example through his dedicated commitment to my community.

For more than 56 years Mr. Hardy has been involved with organized labor, both as a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and as the Business Manager for the IBEW Local 100. In addition to his work with IBEW, he has served as the Executive Secretary of the Fresno-Madera-Tulare-Kings Building and Construction Trades Council. For all of his leadership efforts with organized labor, Mr. Fred Hardy was recognized by the Central Labor Council as the Labor Leader of the Year in 1981.

Mr. Hardy has not only dedicated his time to organized labor efforts, he has also passionately served his community through a number of volunteer organizations. Mr. Hardy is a veteran of the United States Army and has served on numerous boards, including the Fresno City Police and Firemen's Pension Board, the Board of Directors for the Fresno County Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Valley Area Construction Opportunity Program. The people of the Central Valley have been fortunate to have such a passionate and dedicated servant for the community for so many years.

Mr. Hardy has contributed to the improvement of the community through his work in and out of organized labor. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Fred Hardy on his retirement and on his much-deserved Lifetime Achievement award.

THE 155TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF  
GUADALUPE HIDALGO

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 4, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, Sunday February 2nd marked the 155th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. This is a treaty between Mexico and the United States guaranteed former Mexican citizens who remained in the United States certain property rights. One essential promise was to secure and protect the property rights of Mexican and Spanish citizens that had been given land grants from the Spanish and Mexican Governments.

In turn, the United States paid Mexico \$15,000,000, and among other things, agreed to recognize prior land grants issued by Spain and Mexico to individuals, communities, and

indigenous pueblo people. Thus, during the 50 years that followed the signing, numerous procedures were developed to evaluate and validate the land grants. However, the 1848 change in sovereignty brought together two different legal systems—the Spanish/Mexican and the Anglo-American. These competing legal systems resulted in the inability of the United States to properly recognize and honor the important role that custom played in preserving the lands and waters in accordance with Spanish and Mexican law.

My good friend, then-Representative, now New Mexico Governor, Bill Richardson introduced legislation that would create a Presidential Commission to study the claims of the land grant heirs. In the 107th Congress, my predecessor, Mr. Redmond, introduced similar legislation in this body. With tremendous bipartisan support, the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty Land Claims Act of 1998 passed overwhelmingly. Its supporters and co-sponsors included not only the current Speaker of the House, but former Speaker Gingrich and members of the leadership of both parties.

With the passage of this bill, the House of Representatives sent a clear message that it was time to undo 150 years of injustice. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the legislation never made it through the Senate.

During the 106th and 107th Congress I picked up the mantle that my predecessors carried in the House of Representatives to remedy the situation and to correct these injustices. I was pleased that I had the full support of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in this regard.

Senators PETE DOMENICI and JEFF BINGAMAN, along with myself, asked the GAO in 2001 to undertake a study of whether the United States fulfilled its obligations under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo with regard to land grants made by Spain and Mexico. Although I had intended to introduce this legislation again today to coincide with the 155th Anniversary, I am withholding this important legislation until the GAO study regarding the treaty is released.

Mr. Speaker, the issues that have evolved from the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo center on the concept of fairness and justice. Thus, I ask that all Americans acknowledge the 155th anniversary of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, by recognizing the many issues that remain to be properly addressed in order to assure a fair evaluation of the land grant claims.

Once the final GAO report is released and all stakeholders have had the opportunity to review and comment on the findings I look forward to working with the entire New Mexico Congressional Delegation and stakeholders in

starting the long process to resolve these disputes and to bring our government in line with its treaty obligations.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GREATER AWARENESS OF NEED FOR YOUTH MENTORS AND INCREASED INVOLVEMENT WITH YOUTH THROUGH MENTORING

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 27, 2003*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Mentoring Caucus, I am pleased to join my colleagues today in supporting House Resolution 25. This important resolution commends those who contribute their time and talents to mentoring programs and supports efforts to promote greater awareness of the need for mentors. As we recognize National Mentoring Month, we should all celebrate the positive effects that mentors make in assuring brighter futures for young people.

Children who have mentors have a better chance of succeeding and are more likely to make positive choices. Young girls who have supportive mentors can grow up to be confident and powerful women by learning to make healthy decisions at an early age. The GirlVenture program in my home state of Minnesota has successfully connected more than 500 youth and 100 girls and their mothers with mentors who help them prepare for the workforce, become financially competent and make healthy life choices. GirlVenture also offers classes to help parents, educators and youth workers instill future-focused values in finances, relationships and leadership.

GirlVenture is just one example of the countless mentoring programs that are making a difference in the lives of young people. Unfortunately, there are far too many at-risk children who are on waiting lists, hoping to soon be matched with a caring mentor. According to the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota, there are an estimated 75,000 young people who want and need an adult mentor in Minneapolis and St. Paul alone.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to honor mentors and encourage others to give their time and guidance to a child. And I wish to commend those mentors who are currently helping to shape the lives of young people through mentoring.